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Environment and sustainable development

Japan, Russian Federation and Tajikistan: draft resolution

Activities undertaken in preparation for the International Year of Freshwater, 2003

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/196 of 20 December 2000 proclaiming 2003 as the International Year of Freshwater, and resolution 56/192 of 21 December 2001 on the status of preparations for the International Year of Freshwater, 2003,

Recalling also the relevant provisions of Agenda 21[1] and decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its sixth session,[2] relating to freshwater, and, in particular, freshwater provisions in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[3] adopted in September 2002,

Welcoming and encouraging the partnerships related to freshwater announced at the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Reaffirming the Millennium development goal to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or afford safe drinking water[4] and the goal of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to reduce by half the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation,[5]

Recalling its resolution 53/199 of 15 December 1998 on the proclamation of international years,

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development*, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publications, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 9* (E/1998/29).

[3] A/CONF.199/20, chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[4] See resolution 55/2, para. 19.

[5] See A/CONF.199/20, chap. I, resolution 2, annex, para. 25.

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Noting the efforts for the elaboration of the *World Water Development Report* and the preparations for the Third World Water Forum and the International Ministerial Conference, to be held in Japan in March 2003,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General,[6]

1. *Welcomes* the activities undertaken by Member States, the Secretariat, the lead agencies, in particular the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme, and other organizations of the United Nations system that are engaged in work related to freshwater, as well as major groups, in preparation for the observance of the International Year of Freshwater, and encourages them to continue and expand their efforts;

2. *Encourages* all States, relevant international organizations and major groups to support activities related to the Year, inter alia, through voluntary contributions;

3. *Also encourages* all Member States, the United Nations system and major groups to take advantage of the International Year of Freshwater to raise awareness of the strategic importance of freshwater resources for satisfying basic human needs and for health and food production and the preservation of ecosystems, as well as for economic and social development in general, and to promote action at the local, national, regional and international levels, and calls for high priority to be given to the serious freshwater problems facing many regions, especially in the developing countries;

4. *Further encourages* partnerships between Member States, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, major groups and the private sector to sponsor and promote the International Year of Freshwater and projects, including the dissemination of messages, the production of educational material and projects in the field;

5. *Encourages* interested stakeholders, such as international organizations, major groups and others, to link their water-related activities to the International Year of Freshwater;

6. *Calls upon* Member States that have not already done so to create national committees or designate focal points in their respective countries to facilitate and promote activities related to the International Year at the local and national levels;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session an interim report on the activities undertaken for the International Year of Freshwater and to report on further efforts to achieve the sustainable development of water resources.

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[6] A/57/132.